

Federal Communications Commission
Gettysburg, PA 20554
February 11, 2002
RE: ET Docket 01-0278

Sirs:

I am writing to comment on ET Docket 01-278; specifically paragraphs 20-27 pertaining to Part 15 RF emission levels, bandwidth limitations, and frequency allocations.

I am opposed to the proposed increase in acceptable Part 15 emission levels in the 430 MHz range of the Amateur Radio Service; See paragraphs 25-27 of Docket 01-278. Also, I am opposed to the proposed increase in acceptable emission levels and increased bandwidth in the 13.56 MHz band; See paragraphs 20-23 of same Docket.

In short, I am against this and any proposal which increases the acceptable RFI emission levels or bandwidth usage, whether by power or directionality of signal, from Part 15 devices. Please read further for my general comments about Part 15, it's present restrictions, and evolution.

Being an Amateur Radio Operator for almost 30 years, I am deeply concerned by the increase of RFI from Part 15 devices. The interference we as Amateur Radio Operators must endure has grown dramatically in the past few years and there is no end to this growth in sight. No one in authority seems to realize the extent to which RFI now interferes with our lives or how it threatens our future activities.

In the past, it was assumed that newly installed Part 15 "unregulated" devices might cause interference on an occasional basis. Perhaps it was deemed effective for the affected party to simply address the case on an individual basis to resolve the interference, thus shifting the cost of RFI suppression from the manufacturer to the consumer. That cost, not merely monetary, has become too great for us (the consumers) to bear.

The proliferation of the incidental RFI generating devices has grown exponentially as their manufacturing costs are kept low at the expense of all RFI suppression and control. As the situation has evolved, when a new device is installed the question is not IF it interfere with anything, but HOW MANY things will it interfere with!

Radio reception in residential areas is a daily battle of avoiding unintended RF signals on all frequencies from a myriad of sources. Interference problems in these areas are growing in abundance, pitting average citizens against each other in a war of electronic signals in which neither person is well versed. While we have laws to resolve these problems, the bad feelings generated between neighbors can continue for years.

Due to the many increasing incidents of interference the time has come to decrease incidental RFI emissions from electronics sold and used in this country. Part 15 regulations are our best vehicle to accomplish this RFI reduction. The first step is to NOT allow further increases in the RFI emission limits now mandatory by Part 15.

For the future, stricter Part 15 emission limits should be imposed, and new devices, at any frequency or mode, should be equally if not more restrictive in nature. Things are very bad now; at the very least do not let them get any worse.

Please, do not allow increased pollution of our RF spectrum natural resources and try to do everything in your power to help reduce such detrimental RFI emissions, whether incidental or intended.

Thank you for allowing me to comment about something which I and other Hams feel so strongly. I hope our voices will be heard, and seriously considered, in this matter and in similar ones in the future.

Michael Swiderski WB1COJ melkin2@hotmail.com
52 Pine Street
Stoughton, MA 02072-1820